IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:

KATO, et al.

Application No.:

TBD

Filed:

March 10, 2004

For:

VACUUM PROCESSING APPARATUS AND OPERATING

METHOD THEREFOR

Expected

Group Art Unit:

3749

Expected

Examiner:

P. Wilson

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop Patent Application Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

March 10, 2004

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application, prior to examination thereof, as listed in the following and as set forth on the following pages:

Amendments to the Specification;

Remarks are included following the amendments.